

REMARKS

The office action of December 10, 2004, has been carefully considered.

It is noted that claims 1-2 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) over the patent to Lay in view of the patent to Erickson.

In view of the Examiner's rejections of the claims, applicant has canceled claim 2 and amended claim 1.

The high density polyethylene gives the housing a slight elasticity which makes possible the tight sealing of the flap 3 of the flap valve due to the elastic spreading of the valve seat of the valve housing 2 in the closed position of the flap 3.

The glass fiber-reinforced high density polyethylene material of the male part of the quick disconnect coupling makes possible a tight connection of the flap valve with a discharge hose, on whose connection end the female part of the quick disconnect coupling is provided.

Finally, the reduced diameter portion of the outlet

connection of the valve housing results in a mutual uncoupling of the valve housing of limited elasticity and the rigid male part of the coupling, so that the desired different material properties of the valve housing and the male part of the coupling do not negatively influence each other.

It is respectfully submitted that the claim presently on file differs essentially and in an unobvious, highly advantageous manner from the constructions disclosed in the references.

Turning now to the references and particularly to the patent to Lay, it can be seen that this patent discloses, as shown in Fig. 1, a ball valve 100 having a valve housing 130 with a coupling part 140 welded thereto for connecting a hose. The valve housing 130 and the coupling part 140 are made of a high density polyethylene. This construction has the same disadvantages as DE 298 24 096 discussed in the specification of the present application, namely that the male part 140 of the coupling is slightly elastically deformable so that it is not possible to ensure a tight connection of the discharge hose.

The patent to Erickson discloses a magnet valve constructed as a ball valve for controlling the pressure of a pressure fluid.

The valve housing 30 is made of a glass fiber-reinforced polyethylene (see col. 3, lines 19-29, and Fig. 1). Erickson provides no teaching of a male part of a quick disconnect coupling that is of a glass fiber-reinforced polyethylene of high density, and wherein the outlet connection of the valve housing has a reduced diameter portion, as in the presently claimed invention.

The Examiner combined Erickson with Lay in determining that claims 1 and 2 would be unpatentable over such a combination. Applicant respectfully submits that neither of these references, nor their combination, teach a tapping valve as recited in the claim presently on file, wherein the valve housing is of a polyethylene of high density so that a tight sealing of the flap valve or ball valve is provided, wherein the male part of the quick disconnect coupling is of a glass fiber-reinforced polyethylene of high density so that a tight connection with a discharge hose is possible, and wherein the outlet connection of the valve housing has a reduced diameter portion so that the desired different characteristics of the slightly elastic housing and the rigid male part are not undesirably influenced. Such a construction is not taught by the combination of references relied upon by the Examiner.

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In view of these considerations it is respectfully submitted that the rejection of claims 1-2 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) over a combination of the above-discussed references is overcome and should be withdrawn.

Reconsideration and allowance of the present application are respectfully requested.

Any additional fees or charges required at this time in connection with this application may be charged to Patent and Trademark Office Deposit Account No. 11-1835.

Respectfully submitted,

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CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, PO Box 1450 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on March 10, 2005.

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